

Message Text

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62

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 NSCE-00 DRC-01 /126 W

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R 181106Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 033

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

CONFIDENTIAL TAIPEI 6361

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH, TW

SUBJECT: ROC'S CONTINUED DISCOMFORT OVER PRESENCE OF PRAPHAT

AND NARONG

REF: TAIPEI 6294

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR OCTOBER 18
PREMIER CHIANG DESCRIBED CONTINUED PRESENCE IN
TAIPEI OF PRAPHAT AND NARONG AS "HOT POTATO". ALTHOUGH
CCK DISPLAYED HUMANITARIAN AND FRIENDLY
FEELING TOWARD UNEXPECTED VISITORS HE WAS CLEARLY
ANXIOUS THAT BOTH MEN MOVE ON AND NOT BECOME AN ISSUE
COMPLICATING ROC/THAI RELATIONS. HE SAID THAT IF THEY
DO NOT LEAVE VOLUNTARILY HE WAS INCLINED TO SUGGEST QUITE
FRANKLY TO THEM THAT THEY DO SO. HOWEVER HE INTENDED TO
WAIT A FEW DAYS.

2. CCK CONFIRMED THAT PRAPHAT AND NARONG HAVE MOVED
FROM THE HIGHLY VISIBLE GRAND HOTEL TO A PRIVATE HOUSE.
THEY HAVE BEEN SPEAKING OF A "TEMPORARY STAY" BUT HAVE NOT
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MENTIONED EITHER A DATE OF DEPARTURE OR ONWARD DESTINATION.

(ALTHOUGH ROC ALLOWED NEWS OF PRAPHAT'S PRESENCE TO LEAK TO PRESS IN WAY SATISFACTORY TO ROC, PRAPHAT HAS MADE NO PUBLIC STATEMENTS IN TAIPEI, AND WE UNDERSTAND ROC HAS URGED HIM NOT TO MAKE REMARKS WHICH WOULD JEOPARDIZE ROC/THAI RELATIONS).

3. AMBASSADOR ALSO PROVIDED CCK WITH GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF THAI SITUATION AND ORIENTATION OF NEW GOVERNMENT AS PROVIDED IN NUMEROUS HELPFUL MESSAGES FROM EMBASSY BANGKOK. CCK SAID THAT THESE VIEWS WERE CONSISTENT WITH THE ASSESSMENT OF THE ROC EMBASSY IN BANGKOK.

4. COMMENT: FROM THE START THE PREMIER AND ALL ROC OFFICIALS WITH WHOM WE HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT HAVE RECOGNIZED THE POTENTIAL DAMAGE THAT MIGHT OCCUR IF THEY SHOLULD MISHANDLE THE PRAPHAT/ NARONG SITUATION. ALTHOUGH AMBASSADOR IN NO WAY IMPLIED HE WAS CONVEYING OFFICIAL US ADVICE TO THE ROC, HE underscored THE DANGERS FOR THE ROC BY INFORMING THE PREMIER THAT THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION AMONG SOME GROUPS IN BANGKOK OF ATTEMPTING TO EXTRADITE THANOM, PRAPHAT AND NARONG FOR TRIAL.

MCCONAUGHEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TAIPEI06361
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS MCCONAUGHEY
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: TAIPEI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731023/aaaaaqqc.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: TAIPEI 6294
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <14-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROC'S CONTINUED DISCOMFORT OVER PRESENCE OF PRAPHAT AND NARONG
TAGS: PFOR, TH, TW
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005